



# Montgomery County Council

*From the office of Councilmember Phil Andrews*

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**News Advisory**

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**July 21, 2003**

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## **ANDREWS, DUNCAN JOIN FORCES ON BILL TO REQUIRE SPRINKLERS IN ALL NEW MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOMES**

Councilmember Phil Andrews announced today the introduction of legislation to require sprinklers in the construction of all new detached, single-family housing in the County.

He was joined by County Executive Doug Duncan, Director of County Fire and Rescue Gordon Aoyagi, Rockville City Councilmember John Hall, Eric Bernard of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department, and others in front of a home that was constructed with sprinklers installed.

"Sprinkler systems can be the difference between life and death for County residents," said Councilmember Andrews, who chairs the County's Public Safety Committee. "They mean better protection for the biggest investment most of us will ever make – our home – and also help lower insurance costs."

"More in-fill development with single-family houses closer together and the location of many rural homes further from fire stations underline the need," said Councilmember Michael Knapp, a co-sponsor of the bill.

"Between 1991 and 2001 in Montgomery County, there were 52 deaths in non-sprinkled residences – and zero deaths in sprinkled residences," said Council President Michael Subin, another co-sponsor.

Prince George's County has required sprinklers in all new residential buildings since 1999 and the cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg both adopted the requirement last year. County residents can also get a 50 percent County property tax credit for retrofitting older residences.

The legislation will be formally introduced in the Council tomorrow, with a public hearing scheduled for September 16. # # #